

May 28, 2010

BLACK LAKES ALLOTMENT #450**Carson National Forest
Camino Real Ranger District****ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2010**

The annual meeting for the Black Lakes Allotment was held on April 21, 2010, at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Taos, New Mexico. The Black Lakes Livestock Association was represented by Cristobal Cisneros Jr., Steve Vigil, Richard Tafoya, and Luis Garcia. Sean Kelly represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit for the Black Lakes Livestock Association.

The Camino Real Ranger District and the permittee discussed the improved drought conditions, current snow depth and water content on the allotment, and the outlook on predicted weather patterns for this coming grazing season. Conditions for this year appear positive as seen so far this winter. The full permitted numbers could be grazed this year and any non-use will be recorded as personal convenience nonuse.

Table 1- Permittee, Permitted and Authorized number and kind.

1. Permittee	Permitted Number and Kind	Authorized number and kind
Black Lakes Livestock Association	210 cow/calf 11 bulls	138 cow/calf 8 bulls
Taos Group – Cristobal N. Cisneros	7 cow/calf	4 cow/calf
Fidel T. Garcia	3 cow/calf	0 cow/calf
Luis R. Garcia	24 cow/calf	30 cow/calf 2 bulls
Genoveva Martinez	6 cow/calf	0 cow/calf
Black Lakes Group – Richard M. Tafoya	16 cow/calf	20 cow/calf 2 bulls
Michael Trujillo	15 cow/calf	3 cow/calf
Edmundo L. Vigil	45 cow/calf	33 cow/calf 2 bulls
South Group – Robert A. Trujillo	62 cow/calf	16 cow/calf 1 bulls
Alfonso F. Vigil	32 cow/calf	32cow/calf 1 bull

Table 2 - Season of use

2. Season of Use	
06/16-09/30	(107 days)

Table 3 - Pasture Rotation

3. Pasture Rotation				
Pasture	Estimated Dates	Estimated Time	Actual use	Utilization%
Osha (Black Lakes)	07/01 - 09/30	92 days		
South (south group, Black Lakes group)	06/16 - 09/30	107 days		
West (Taos)	06/16 - 09/30	107 days		

Black lakes group will start off in the South pasture and then move over to the Osha unit. The Taos group will start in the West pasture then open the gates into the Osha unit around mid July. Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Black Lakes allotment which means that the season of use, numbers grazed and rotation schedules may be adjusted throughout the grazing season based on resource conditions.

4. Maintenance of Improvements

The entire cost of improvements maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Assigned allotment boundary fences, division fences, stock tanks, springs, cattleguards, and other range structural improvements must be maintained prior to the permittees going on to the allotment.

5. Other Items of Discussion

The 2009 grazing season went well with areas grazed within allowable use guidelines. Permittees took a reduction in numbers (56 percent) as personal nonuse. Permittees did a good job in keeping livestock distributed throughout the allotment. Maintenance on assigned fences was good last season as well as other improvements.

The Camino Real District and permittees will monitor at key use areas throughout the allotment.

Utilization guidelines for 2010 are 40% of available annual forage in key use areas and 4 inches stubble height in riparian zones. Forage utilization will be measured in key use areas.

The grazing fee this year is \$1.35 per head month for cattle.

The Forest Service discussed ongoing efforts with the Travel Management Rule. A decision is expected by the end of the season. If permittees need to use ATV's and motor vehicles for performing their required improvement maintenance and other duties such as checking that gates are closed, checking cattle distribution, monitoring, and placing of salt; the Forest Service should be able to accommodate with a written letter issued to the permittees.

Permittees and FS will look at range readiness together to determine range readiness and on-date.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2010:

1. Lay down fence along Flechado allotment border from gate to top of ridge.
2. East-west division fence needs reconstruction (1 mile)
3. South boundary fence is down and/or missing (1/2 mile)
4. New trough and spring box at Trujillo spring.
5. New trough below corner park along the South Boundary trail.
6. Maintenance on stock tanks in Osha.

Permittees mentioned that the fence from Borrego Crossing to Jarocito is unnecessary and could be removed.

Permittees mentioned that private land boundary fences and uncontrolled ATV use are major concerns. This leads to fences being damaged and cut.

The Camino Real District will continue to provide replacement tags as needed.

Forest Service would like at least 2 weeks notice prior to any proposed change in management (either season or numbers) so that they can go look at the allotment with the permittee.